

Appl. No. : 10/603,515
Filed : June 24, 2003

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed February 9, 2004, the Examiner rejected all pending claims, Claims 1-29, for obvious-type double patenting. Claims 28-29 were also rejected as being anticipated. In the present Amendment and Response to Office Action, Applicants have cancelled Claims 28-29 and have amended Claim 15. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and full consideration of the remarks contained herein.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicants have amended the claims to remedy obvious clerical errors. In particular, Applicants have moved the conjunction "and" from after "about 2 mm in width" to after "major surface of the wafer" to provide a more grammatically proper transition between the first two paragraphs of that claim. In addition, Applicants have added a comma, rather than a semicolon, after "about 2 mm in width." Because these amendments merely correct obvious clerical errors, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments add no new matter and are fully supported by the Application as originally filed.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 28-29 as being anticipated by both Kisa (U.S. Patent No. 4,738,748) and Hayashida (JP 63-136532-A).

Initially, Applicants respectfully submit and note for the record that cancelled Claims 28-29 are patentably distinct. For example, Applicants note that Claim 29 depends from independent Claim 28 and that independent Claim 28 recites that the plate has a thickness "of greater than about 10 mm." Applicants submit that neither Kisa nor Hayashida teach such a plate. As a result, they do not teach all limitations of Claims 28-29 and, so, do not anticipate those claims. *See, e.g.,* M.P.E.P. § 2131 (stating that, for a reference to anticipate a claim, the "identical invention must shown in as complete detail [in the reference] as is contained in the ... claim.") (quoting *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)).

Nevertheless, Applicants have cancelled Claims 28-29 to expedite prosecution of the Application. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of these claims are moot.

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Rejections for Double Patenting

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-29 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-41 of U.S. Patent No. 6,183,565 B1 and Claims 1-44 of U.S. Patent No. 6,461,439 B1. The Examiner also indicated that these rejections could be overcome by filing a terminal disclaimer. In response, Applicants have filed a Terminal Disclaimer herewith. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the rejections for double patenting are overcome and that the pending claims are allowable over the art of record.

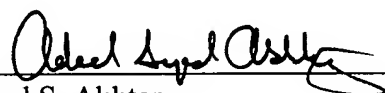
CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. If some issue remains that the Examiner feels may be addressed by Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned for authorization.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: May 7, 2004

By: 
Adeel S. Akhtar
Registration No. 41,394
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(415) 954-4114

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